the High Court nor the subject matter nor the date of the order has been mentioned. However, in pursuance of the orders of the Punjab and Haryana Court dated 25.7.1997 in PIL No. 915/97, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) registered 13 cases *viz.* seven in Punjab and 6 in Haryana Region. The investigation in all the above cases has been completed by CBI. Action against the guilty officials, as recommended by CBI, has been taken.

Sale of foodgrains meant for BPL

215. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of foodgrains meant for BPL families are sold in the open market;

(b) if so, the manner in which Government plan to stop such malpractices;

(c) what punishment Government impose on such traders; and

(d) the number of traders who were punished during the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (d) No Sir. In the event of diversion of foodgrains supplied under Public distribution System (PDS), action is liable in terms of Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001. Violations are punishable under Section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Rejection of consignment from USA

216. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has rejected a large consignment of Soya-Corn blend from the U.S.A.;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) whether the consignment has been referred to the Genetic Engineering Committee; and